



**ANTHONY A. WILLIAMS**  
**MAYOR**

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am pleased to introduce the new District of Columbia Child Health Certificate & Oral Health Assessment Forms. The new forms, which replace all Child Health Certificate forms prior to January 1, 2004, and the Dental Appraisal form, were developed to improve how the Department of Health assesses the health status of children enrolling in public and private schools, Head Start, childcare, camp, after school and athletic programs in the District of Columbia.

The Chief Health Officer of the District of Columbia Department of Health recommends that all children have an annual comprehensive physical examination, with age-appropriate screenings, and an annual oral health examination.

- District of Columbia law requires that all children entering pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades have a complete physical examination within 150 calendar days before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school and furnish the school with completed child health certificate and oral health assessment forms.
- Under Federal Law, all children three years of age and older enrolling in childcare and Head Start programs in the District must have an annual physical examination, including an oral health evaluation, and testing for lead poisoning.

On the attached Child Health Certificate Assessment Form, please fill out Parts 1 and 6. Your child's physician or certified health care provider will complete parts 2, 3, 4 and 5. You must also complete parts 1 and 5 of the attached Oral Health Assessment Form and your child's dentist or dental provider will complete parts 2, 3, and 4, if your child is three years of age or older. Only your child's physician or certified health care provider can grant a medical exemption. To obtain a religious exemption for your child you must submit, in good faith, to your child's principal a written **notarized** statement that the examination violates an established tenet and practice of your or your child's religious denomination.

Beginning in summer 2004, the new forms will be available for use in your provider's office and may be accessed online at [www.dchealth.dc.gov](http://www.dchealth.dc.gov). I hope that you will find the new forms simpler and more convenient to use when enrolling your children in pre-school, school, and recreational programs.

For further information concerning the attached forms please contact the 1-800-MOM-BABY HEALTHLINE (1-800-666-2229).

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Anthony A. Williams in cursive script.  
Anthony A. Williams